

N E W S

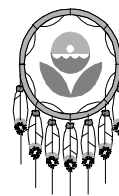
Man who says it cannot be done should

not interrupt man doing it.

Chinese proverb

L E T T E R

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



Vol. IX No. V

May 1, 1999

Work Shops and Conferences

May 3-14, 80 Hour Chemistry of Hazardous Materials, EPA Regional Office, Seattle, WA. This course is composed of two instruction sequences on inorganic and organic chemicals. For information call Diane Ruthruff 206/553-5139. No fee to tribes.

May 17-20, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Grand Ronde, OR. For additional information 503/241-0070.

May 17-20, Civilian Federal Agency environmental Symposium, Doubletree Guest suites, Seattle, WA. Bringing together members of the Civilian Federal Agency Community to Address Their Unique Compliance Needs. View the draft agenda web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/oeca/fedfac/fflex.html> and click on **Federal Facilities**.

May 18-20, 1999 North West Indian Education Summit, Chinook Winds Hotel, Lincoln City OR. For additional information call Beverly Youngman at 541/444-8290 or 800/922-1399.

May 18-20, National EPA, State, Tribal, & Local Wetlands program Symposium, Boulder, CO. Sponsored by EPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans & Watersheds, Wetlands Division. For information call 765/494-5969.

May 18-20, The National Tribal Environmental Council's Sixth National Conference, Eureka, CA. "Honor Thy Mother" hosted by the Yurok Tribe of Eureka, CA. For additional information please call NTEC at 505/242-2175.

May 24-27, 17th Annual National Conference of the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society, Mashantucket, CN. For more information call 303/466-1725 or 508/645-9265.

May 25, 1999 The Natural Step for Environmental Professionals, Seattle, WA. Free training for all EPA employees, interested persons from other governmental agencies and tribes. It will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Plymouth Congregational Church in downtown Seattle (Sixth & Seneca). Call Barbara J. Lister at (206) 553-1191 to confirm attendance and space.

AISES

The AISES/EPA scholarship application is included on the AISES website:

www.aises.org/scholarships.

You may want to download and print the application rather than requesting a hard copy from AISES. The application is due on **June 15, 1999**. Please mail along with the required attachments to AISES.

Should you have additional questions, please e-mail or call Cynthia Rouillard,

Scholarship Coordinator at 303/939-0023 or cynthia@aises.org

Water Quality/Air Quality Conference

June 10-11, 1999. Doubletree Inn, South Center Mall, Tukwila, WA.

ATNI in conjunction with EPA is undertaking two projects that will affect how tribal communities in this Region and their resources are protected. EPA is considering how to establish **water quality standards** on reservations, including continued support for tribes who wish to develop standards. EPA Region 10 is considering directly implementing the **Federal Clean Air Act** by promulgating basic air quality rules to apply to Indian Country.

ATNI and EPA would like to learn the views of tribes related to the following:

◆effectiveness in addressing environmental issues ◆tribal sovereignty and self-governance impacts ◆economic effects and cultural cancers
◆opportunities for partnerships ◆use of standards as templates for tribal

standards or ordinances ◆strategies for identifying additional sources of pollution.

Who attends? A tribal leader, the environmental director, and the attorney who handles environmental issues.

EPA will reimburse up to three representatives per tribe for the cost of travel to and from the conference.

Room reservation (**May 19-deadline**) at 800/222-8733 or 206/246-8220. For info: Marcia Colvin 206/553-690.

Tribal Newsletter

The Region 10 Tribal Newsletter is available on its web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/r10/earth> then **267 Indian Tribes** then **Monthly Newsletter**.

If you would rather read the Region 10 Tribal Newsletter from the net and reduce your paper traffic, please call your newsletter contact person, located in the lower left hand corner of this page, and let them know. Thank You!

Operator Guidelines

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter is published monthly at no charge

To receive a copy call:

AK..Jean.....907/271-6558
ID..Arlene.....208/378-5749
OR..Don.....503/326-5015
WA..Evelyn.....206/553-4011
Tribal Office.....800/424-4372
ext. 4011

The final guidelines setting minimum standards for the development, implementation and enforcement of operator certification programs for public waters systems has been published by EPA.

The 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act were required to be published in the Federal Register by February 1999. If states have not implemented an operator certification program that meets the federal guideline by February 2001 they could lose 20 percent of their Drinking Water State Revolving Fund allotment.

The main objective of the operator certification program is to protect public health and increase consumer confidence in the safety of U.S. drinking water.

The guidelines represent only minimum standards, and EPA has included a clause that will prevent states with strong certification programs from backsliding to the federal level.

NSFC Web Site

The National Small Flows clearinghouse recently redesigned and updated its Web site, at: www.nsfc.wvu.edu, with new information about the environmental Technology Initiative; upcoming conferences and events for 1999; and NSFC projects, products, and databases.

The NSFC also has placed online revised versions of three informational products that are related to septic tank operation and maintenance: 1. So..now you own a septic system, 2. The care and feeding of your septic system, 3. Groundwater protection and your septic system.

Tribal Emergency Workshop

Prairie Island Indian Community to Deliver Tribal Emergency Response and Preparedness Workshop. As a follow up to the **Fourth National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management**, the Prairie Island Indian Community will deliver a three and a half day **Tribal Emergency Response and Preparedness Workshop – May 11-14, 1999**.

The workshop will be conducted by the

National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Nuclear Waste Program (NWP) and will cover the following topics: ♦ hazardous materials awareness training,

- ♦ overview of federal guidelines and requirements,
- ♦ introduction to tribal regulatory roles and responsibilities,
- ♦ jurisdictional considerations, and
- ♦ tribal infrastructure development and capacity building.

The course is designed for tribal first responders, environmental staff, firefighters, law enforcement officers, planners, and tribal decision-makers. Course materials will include three documents developed by NCAI:

- ♦ Guidance for the Preparation of Tribal Emergency Preparedness Plans,
- ♦ Sample Tribal Hazardous Materials Transportation Code, and
- ♦ Sample Tribal Code on Emergency Planning.

Workshop participants completing the training course receive twelve hours of Hazardous Materials Awareness certification from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, an accredited emergency management organization. Limited travel scholarships are available, on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, contact: **Heather Westra**, Prairie Island Indian Community, 5636 Sturgeon Lake Road, Welch, MN 55089, 800/554-5473. hwestra@pressenter.com or **Robert Holden**, National congress of American Indians, 1301 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036, 202/466-7767, robert_holden@ncai.org

Fish

In its second report to Congress on the status of marine fish stocks, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Service reports that 100 of 300 fish species reviewed are over fished or "approaching an over fished condition." The report is available on line at:

<http://kingfish.ssp.nmfs.gov/sfa>

Seeking Tribal Input

EPA Region 10 has developed a draft tribal program strategic plan, and is

seeking input from tribes prior to the plan being finalized. Once completed, the plan will be used to guide EPA Region 10 as it implements tribal program and activities over time. Tribal input to the draft plan is important, and will be accepted through June 15, 1999. Copies of the plan can be received in either hard copy or electronic form by contacting Doug Cole, Idaho Tribal Program Coordinator, at 208/378-5764, or through the EPA R10 Tribal Office.

Sacred Landscapes

Native American Perspectives of the Pacific Northwest. A conference at Oregon State University Friday **May 14, 1999**.

The purpose of this conference is to provide a forum for Native American tribal elders, leaders, and resource experts to express their viewpoints on the environment as its importance in native community life and spirituality. All presentations are made by Native Americans living in the Pacific Northwest.

The conference is free. For additional information and a map of the area call Sandra Shockley at 541/737-5648 or visit the web site: http://osu.orst.edu/dept/ethnic_studies/sacred_landscapes/main.htm

NativeNet Job Database

The NativeNet Job Database has been updated with over 500 new position openings from all over the US. The database is keyword searchable and it's free. Check out their website at: <http://www.nativenet.uthscsa.edu/career>.

Y2K Tribal Conference

The Office of solid Waste and emergency Response is preparing to sponsor the Fifth National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management, tentatively scheduled for May 2000. **Your Tribe is invited to consider hosting this upcoming conference.**

EPA hopes to maintain a multi-media forum for the 2000 conference and to highlight the priority environmental issues of interest to Tribes. The 1998 conference attracted more than 700 participants from around the country,

representing more than 200 Tribes, Native Alaskan Villages, Tribal Consortia, and organizations. A host Tribe must be able to adequately accommodate this potentially large number of attendees.

If you are interested in hosting the conference please contact Stephen Etsitty at 703/305-3194 or Luke Jones at 703/605-0728.



Environmental Conference

Region 10 is in the planning stages of their annual November, 1999 **"Tribal Environmental Conference"**.

The conference will be held in the Seattle metropolitan area. There will be no registration fee for the conference.

EPA is encouraging suggestions for specific session topics and presentations for the tribal conference.

If you have ideas to share or questions to ask contact the following:

AK.....Jean at 907/271-6558
ID.....Arlene at 208/378-5749
OR.....Don at 503/326-5015
WA.....Evelyn at 206/553-4011

Please do not delay with your ideas and suggestions. THANK YOU!

Watershed Academy

EPA's Watershed Academy is a focal point in the Office of Water for providing training and information on implementing watershed approaches to federal, state, tribal and local officials, as well as private practitioners of watershed management. The Academy sponsors its own training courses and develops training materials. It has published a resource guide to the watershed training courses and other educational materials. To obtain a copy of this booklet, free, contact Publications and Information, cite EPA841-B-98-001 at 800/490-9198.

Regional Tribal Meetings held to Discuss status of Region10 GAP program

The Region 10 Office of Tribal

Operations held two region wide tribal meetings to discuss the General Assistance Program status. The first meeting was held during the Alaska Forum on the environment in Anchorage on Thursday, April 8th. The Second meeting was held at the Regional Office in Seattle on Friday, April 23. Both meetings had a large tribal turnout with nearly 125 tribal representatives participating. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the critical funding issues that have resulted from a "flat" GAP budget and a growth in the number of tribes applying for the program. This year alone saw a growth of 58 additional tribes applying for the same sized "pot" of GAP funds- bringing the total of applicants to over 200 (with a flat \$14 million budget). The regional growth and "flat" GAP budget will require a strategic plan for funding future grantees.

Tribal day long meetings elicited a number of ideas to address the current GAP funding and allocation issues. Moreover, tribal representatives voiced concern in addressing and changing a number of national/regional GAP funding policies. The comments made by tribal representatives included:

- Not deny new tribal governments from receiving a GAP grant
- Changing the process for funding tribal consortia by funding directly to tribal governments who then can directly fund the consortia of their choice (so that consortia don't compete directly with tribes for GAP funds);
- Organizing tribes at the regional level to address the national funding allocation formula and the size of national GAP funding (through

NTOC/RTOC, ATNI, AITC, NTEC, NCAI)

- Research other funding to compensate for any decreases in GAP funding
- Provide written input/positions at the Regional, National levels.
- Work together to prevent tribal capacity funds from falling below \$110,000 per tribe
- Assist EPA efforts in building internal capacity to effectively administer it's tribal programs;
- Unite the lower 48 tribes and Alaska tribes in their national efforts to address tribal environmental concerns.
- Willingness to submit a 2 year budget/work plan (as opposed to 1 year) -possibly beginning next fiscal year.

The Tribal Office would like to thank all the tribal elected officials and representatives for attending this important meeting and providing input and direction in addressing these critical issues. A summary of the meetings will be made available from the Tribal Office upon request. Please submit your comments or direct any questions to the Office of Tribal Operations at the address listed below.

Office of Tribal Operations, Attn: Evelyn Holtzendorf, Mail Stop TO-149, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101. Phone 206/553-4011

Tribal Assistance Available

In 1992, the EPA began establishing environmental Finance Centers (EFC) across the country to help communities, tribes, and states addressing issues of environmental compliance. The EFC at Boise State University operates as part of a network with other centers across the country by sharing staff expertise, programs and documents, and often

collaborates on projects affecting one or more EPA regions. Through this network, the EFC at Boise State has a great deal of expertise and resources to offer tribes of the Northwest.

The Center is taking the lead nationally in designing and testing drinking water system capacity assessment methodologies required by the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act. Other priorities of our EFC include:

Providing workshops, conferences, training seminars, and formal education programs to help public and private sector leaders resolve environmental finance dilemmas;

Preparing and disseminating practical guides, handbooks, and reports on environmental finance and management issues;

Helping local and tribal governments and other public water and wastewater systems find new ways, other than taxes, to finance environmental protection; Education federal, state, and tribal policy makers about the unique financial needs of small communities, and explaining financial tools that help them meet regulatory compliance standards.

The EFC also tests and then suggests new tools and assistance mechanisms that could be used by tribal governments. For further information on our center and its resources, contact Bill Jarocki at 208-426-1567.

Live Salmon May 15, 1999

Come see adult salmon returning to their spawning rounds, and young salmon leaveing for the Pacific. Saturday May 15, 9:00am-2:00pm. West of Hermiston, OR. For info call 541/278-5297.

Clean Air

Today, the Clean Air Act includes some programs that EPA operates both on state land and in Indian Country. By themselves, these legal tools are very limited. To increase the protection of communities in Indian Country, EPA supports the development of tribal air quality programs. However, starting a new program, assessing the needs of the community, and adopting rules is a process that can take years, even for a

tribe that sees this effort as a top concern. As part of a long-term solution, EPA Region 10 believes it can also serve the needs of our tribal partners by creating basic air quality rules that help to "fill in the regulatory gap." In creating federal regulations for Indian Country, there are many issues to discuss with the tribes that will be affected by these rules. Starting in June, Region 10 staff will host government-to-government consultation meetings. More information will be available through invitation letters, a website, and this newsletter.

Alaska

■ Indian Grant Assistance Program (IGAP), RAVEN AmeriCorps, and Alaska Native Health Board are planning a jointly sponsored conference and training sessions to be held October 15 - 17, 1999 at the Westcoast International Inn at Anchorage, Alaska. As the agenda and topics are developed for the conference all interested parties will be informed. Please call Amelia Mainord at the Alaska Native Health Board 562-6006; Cathy Clements at RAVEN AmeriCorps 907/279-2511; or your IGAP tribal coordinator at EPA for additional information.

■ Welcome to the New Tribal Coordinator in the Alaska Operations Office: Richard Porter, a member of the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, is our newest Tribal Coordinator in the EPA Alaska office. Richard previously worked for the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe as Environmental Project Director and is on loan to the EPA from the Tribal government under an inter-governmental personnel agreement. Richard will be working with Tribes in the Yukon- Kuskokwim Delta area. We are looking forward to Richard joining us, and hope you will join us in welcoming him! Richard can be reached at (907) 271-1270.

■ Congratulations to Venetie & Arctic Village, and Akiachak Tribal governments, on their Sustainable Development Challenge Grant awards! Venetie and Arctic Village will demonstrate the viability of wind power

to provide a clean source of power to their communities. Akiachak will be implementing an aggressive waste management system to separate waste to be composted, recycled or used in a heat generation unit.

Idaho

Working Effectively with Tribes

Training: Held in the Idaho Operations Office in Boise on April 13-14, 1999. Scott Sufficool, Region X, Tribal Office Director, Robin Slate, Washington Tribal Coordinator and Rich McAllister, Office of Regional Council, Region X, were in Boise to assist in the training. Jeanette Wolfley, Attorney with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes assisted Rich in presenting Federal Indian Law and Policy to the office staff. Rich also presented Government to Government Consultation, Approval of Tribal Programs and Enforcement Procedures in Indian Country. Scott and Robin participated with presenting training objectives, and definitions of Terms and Concepts. Doug Cole presented an overview of the Idaho Tribes and of the Tribal Program Strategy in Region X.

On the second day, Horace Axtell, Nez Perce Elder, and Drusilla Gould, Cultural leader and instructor at Idaho State University from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, shared their thoughts of cultural views on their respective reservation and with the peoples of their areas.

A feast of Indian Tacos was shared by all present. The training was appreciated and enjoyed by all present.

■ The Coeur d'Alene Tribe has submitted an application to EPA Region 10 for Treatment in the Same Manner As a State (TAS) under the Clean Water Act for purposes of establishing a water quality standards and water quality certification program. The application is being processed consistent with the procedures adopted in June, 1998.

Oregon

■ Correction: The article about the Coquille Indian Tribe was to congratulate them for receiving Treatment in the Same Manor as a State for their Clean Water Act, Section 106

application, not to “coagulation” them. Sorry. A belated Congratulations.

■ On April 29th a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Oregon State Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and EPA was signed. This agreement is for the Toledo Mill site in Toledo, OR.

Washington

■ The Sauk Suiattle Indian Tribe and the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe have had their Treatment in the same Manner as a State (TAS) applications approved. These are for Section 106 of the Clean Water Act, and qualifies the Tribes to apply for grant funds under Section 106. Congratulations to both Tribes.

■ The Spokane Tribe has submitted an application to EPA Region 10 for Treatment in the Same Manner As a State (TAS) under the Clean Water Act for purposes of establishing a Water Quality Standards, Water Quality Certification and Clean Lakes program. The application is being processed consistent with the procedures adopted in June, 1988.

■ Rudy Peone of the Spokane Tribe Natural Resources Department was recently promoted to the position of Assistant Director for Water, Fish and Wildlife. Also, Jim Seyler was promoted to water quality technician. Congratulations to both!